

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAG:PINR, TU, UN

SUBJECT: BIO INFO ON ERCUMENT YAVUZALP, NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AT GENEVA

1. AMBASSADOR YAVUZALP WAS BORN IN 1924 IN ANKARA. HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY. YAVUZALP BEGAN HIS GOVERNMENT CAREER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, TRANSFERRING TO THE MFA IN 1949. YAVUZALP'S CAREER HAS PROGRESSED RATHER MORE SLOWLY THAN SOME OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES, PERHAPS DUE TO HIS HAVING ONCE BEEN ASSIGNED AS AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER MENDERES, WHO WAS DEPOSED BY THE 1960 MILITARY COUP AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXECUTED. AFTER TOURS ABROAD IN LONDON, KARACHI, VIENNA, NATO AND AS CHARGE IN CYPRUS AND AMBASSADOR IN LEBANON, YAVUZALP WAS NAMED THE MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS IN FEBRUARY 1973, THE POST HE HAS OCCUPIED UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA. IN 1964 HE SERVED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF CENTO IN ANKARA.

2. NOW 52, YAVUZALP HAS A DISTINGUISHED APPEARANCE. ALTHOUGH HE IS OF AVERAGE HEIGHT AND BUILD, HIS PHYSICAL PRESENCE CONVEYS AN IMPRESSION OF DETERMINATION AND FORCEFULNESS. HE IS ALSO VERY INTENSE, OFTEN TO THE POINT OF APPEARING TO BE VERY NERVOUS.

3. IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS YAVUZALP IS A LITTLE ON THE STIFF AND FORMAL SIDE. HE IS A TRADITIONALIST AND IS
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SLOW TO DEVELOP AN INFORMAL, FIRST NAME RELATIONSHIP

WITH HIS COLLEAGUES. HIS OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICANS IN ANKARA AND ABORAD HAVE BEEN GOOD; AND HE IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, YAVUZALP APPARENTLY DOES NOT ENJOY SOCIAL EVENTS, AND HE HAS NEVER FORMED PARTICULARLY CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES.

4. YAVUZALP IS A CAPABLE PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT. DURING HIS YEARS AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS HE WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WHEN WE WERE ABLE TO APPROACH HIM PRIVATELY AND DIRECTLY. HE WAS LESS FLEXIBLE IN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER. HE WAS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE U.S. TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MARCH 1976. IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES HE WAS THE LEAST YIELDING MEMBER OF THE TURKISH NEGOTIATING TEAM, SEEMING RELUCTANT TO COMPROMISE EVEN AFTER HIS COLLEAGUES HAD DONE SO.

5. YAVUZALP'S FAMILY COMES FROM EASTERN TURKEY (BOTH OF HIS GRANDFATHERS WERE KILLED FIGHTING THE RUSSIANS). HIS WIFE NEVIN, AN EXCEPTIONALLY BEAUTIFUL AND VIVACIOUS WOMAN, WHO APPEARS TO BE SEVERAL YEARS YOUNGER THAN HE, COMES FROM A SYRIAN-TURKISH FAMILY. THEY BOTH SPEAK ENGLISH AND FRENCH WELL. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN. YAVUZALP BELIEVES THAT TURKISH FOREIGN SERVICE CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN TURKEY AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ABROAD. HE REPORTEDLY WORRIES THAT BY THE TIME HIS CHILDREN REACH UNIVERSITY AGE, HE MAY HAVE RETIRED, THUS MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION ABROAD.

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